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McNamara Admits 'A Serious Error'

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said yesterday he wants "the American people to know" that he and other advisers of President Kennedy had unanimously favored the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

McNamara, who leaves office shortly, said it was "a serious error" and "is very much on my conscience." He noted that President Kennedy had "gallantly" taken blame for the invasion fiasco.

Dean Rusk, who was Secretary of State then as now, sat beside McNamara at yesterday's televised interview but had no comment on the Bay of Pigs.

McNamara, when asked later if he had made other mistakes, replied: "More than time would permit me to list."